

**General Assembly**

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Sixty-fourth session**Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session****Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War****Letter dated 14 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to address you on behalf of the Russian Federation, as well as the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, with a request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to include in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly a supplementary item entitled "The sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War" to be considered by the General Assembly in plenary session.

In conformity with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory note (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached to this letter.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) V. Churkin



Annex I**Explanatory note**

In 2010 the world will commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the victory over fascism. The great victory in the Second World War was achieved through the efforts of many countries. That war proved to be the greatest tragedy to afflict the peoples of Europe and the world. Through the suffering and death of millions of people, the world community came to realize the indispensability of a system of collective security and the necessity of establishing reliable machinery to ensure international peace.

The burning desire to spare humanity forever from the miseries of war served as the basis for the founding of the United Nations, whose Charter has come to serve as the code of conduct for States and international organizations and the generally recognized foundation for the building of a new world order and the system of international law.

It is important today to bear in mind the lessons of the Second World War, to hold sacred the memory of the fallen and to work to promote the preservation of the historical memory of peoples. The meaning of the victory won in the Second World War is especially significant today, when the international community needs to join forces to address global challenges and threats, such as international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and transnational organized crime.

The memory of the victory over fascism is also of current relevance in view of the increasing attempts to rewrite history and revise the conclusions to be drawn from the Second World War and the Nuremberg Tribunal. The rise of neo-fascist and neo-Nazi ideologies and organizations and the growth of aggressive nationalism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia make it necessary for the United Nations to oppose crimes based on race, nationality and ethnic origin and the spread of intolerance and related forms of racial discrimination.

The States Members of the United Nations must jointly take all possible measures to put an end through political means to present-day armed conflicts, prevent their emergence in the future and promote the joint efforts of the international community to combat new challenges and threats, with the United Nations playing the central role. That is why it is especially important to promote the improvement of United Nations machinery for preventing and resolving conflicts by peaceful means, strengthening the Organization's capacities in peacebuilding and the consolidation of peace, and promoting democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It is in the direct interest of humanity to further strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations as the central element in the collective security system, *inter alia*, through a process of rational reform.

Consideration of this agenda item could lead to the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution on the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Second World War. This would make it possible to hold a solemn meeting of the General Assembly in memory of all victims of the war.

Annex II

Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/26 of 22 November 2004, in which it, inter alia, declared 8 and 9 May as a time of remembrance and reconciliation,

Recalling that 2010 will mark the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a war which brought untold sorrow to mankind,

Stressing that this historic event established the conditions for the creation of the United Nations, designed to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Calling upon the States Members of the United Nations to unite their efforts in dealing with new challenges and threats, with the United Nations playing a central role, and to make every effort to settle all disputes by peaceful means in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and in such a manner that international peace and security are not endangered,

Underlining the progress made since the end of the Second World War in overcoming its legacy and towards establishing reconciliation, international and regional cooperation and the promotion of democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular through the United Nations, and the establishment of regional organizations and other appropriate frameworks,

1. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe these days in an appropriate manner to pay tribute to all victims of the Second World War;

2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to hold a special solemn meeting of the General Assembly in the second week of May 2010 in commemoration of all victims of the war;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system and to take measures necessary for its implementation.